

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1–52 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 1, 25 and 49 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In Section 3 of the Office Action of July 19, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as “Office Action”), claims 1–3, 6, 9, 11, 25–27, 30, 33, 35, 49 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,983,190 to Trower, et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Trower”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,367,454 to Kawanmoto (hereinafter, “Kawamoto”).

Claims 4–5, 12, 17, 19, 22–24, 28–29, 36, 41, 43 and 46–48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,859 to Houser, et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Houser”).

Claims 7, 8 and 31–32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,780 to Lumelsky (hereinafter referred to as “Lumelsky”).

Claims 10 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, and further in view of Crow et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,262,724 to Crow, et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Crow”).

Claims 13 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, further in view of Houser, and yet further in view of Volk et al. (U.S. Patent: 5,687,331; hereinafter referred to as “Volk”).

Claims 14 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, further in view of Houser, further in view of Volk, and yet further in view of Florin et al. (U.S. Patent: 5,583,560; hereinafter referred to as “Florin”).

Claims 15 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, further in view of Houser, and yet further in view of Kanerva et al. (U.S. Patent: 6,026,416; hereinafter referred to as “Kanerva”).

Claims 16 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, further in view of Houser, further in view of Kanerva, and yet further in view of Florin.

Claims 18 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, in further view of Houser, and yet further in view of Florin.

Claims 20 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, further in view of Lumelsky, and yet further in view of Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent 5,758,079; hereinafter referred to as “Ludwig”).

Claims 21, 45 and 50–51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Trower in view of Kawamoto, and further in view of Iwamura et al. (U.S. Patent 5,262,760; hereinafter referred to as “Iwamura”).

As understood by the Applicants, Trower relates to a client server animation system providing services to enable clients to play animation and lip-synched speech output for an interactive user interface character.

As understood by the Applicants, Kawamoto relates to an interactive man-machine interface system that displays an animated face that exhibits human-like emotions. The system stores data representing each of eight basic emotions and continually changes the level of each basic emotion depending on environmental stimuli, internal reactions between the emotions, and the passage of time.

The instant invention relates to a system and method for supporting operations for input of user commands to household electric appliances such as a television set/monitor and information equipment, and in particular, to an interactive operation support system and a method therefor, which permit input of user commands to various kinds of connected equipment interactively. Neither Trower nor Kawamoto teach or suggest a command execution means for executing function commands including a channel selection or channel change command, as recited in instant claim 1.

Specifically amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An interactive operation supporting system ... a command execution means for executing function commands, **said function commands including a channel selection or channel change command**” (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Trower nor Kawamoto teach or disclose the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, neither of the references, considered alone or in combination, teach nor suggest the use of a command execution means for executing function commands such as channel selection or channel change command, as recited in instant claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 25 and 49 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to claim 1, and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

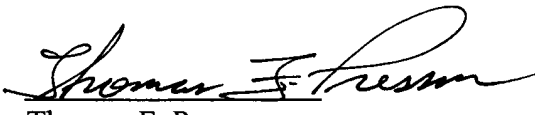
In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1–52 are respectfully solicited.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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